

Why a research project and a workshop on 2G MIS?

Franck Galtier (CIRAD-UMR MOISA), Johnny Egg (INRA-UMR MOISA),
Marie-Cécile Thirion (AFD)

From 1G MIS to 2G MIS

- What is a MIS?
- Objectives of MIS:
 - Inform decision-makers
 - Improve market transparency
- 1G MIS: 1980s' and 1990s'; liberalization.
- 2G MIS: 2000s' (transformation of existing MIS & new MIS) ; NTIC.

1. The case of 1G MIS

Uniformity of 1G MIS

- Nature of widespread information: prices
- Scope (product): group of close substitute (e.g. cereals, cattle...)
- Scope (area): country
- Institutional status: MIS based in public structures (e. g. marketing boards, offices...).
- Diffusion: free (e. g. by radio)
- Financed by project
- ...

This uniformity is a problem (Galtier & Egg 1998)

Problems faced by 1G MIS

- Lack of internal effectiveness: reliability, delays... (Sheperd 1997)
- Lack of connection between supply and demand of information
- Lack of sustainability
- Exclusion of some market operators
- ...

These problems undermine the potential impact of MIS on markets transparency, efficiency and equity (Galtier & Egg 2003)

The ambiguous impact of 1G MIS

- Lack of reliable methods
- Ambiguous impact
- Most observers are disappointed
- ...

2. The case of 2G MIS

Diversity of 2G MIS

- Nature of widespread information: prices, quantity, stocks, yield forecasts...
- Scope (product): sometimes many categories of products
- Scope (area): decentralized MIS, regional MIS, international MIS
- Institutional status: administration, chamber of agriculture, MIS run by PO, MIS linked to exchanges, private MIS...
- Diffusion: radio, web sites, mobiles phones
- Financed by project, state budget, sales of information and other services...

Need for inventory and characterization of African agricultural MIS (database).

Strengths and limitations of 2G MIS' innovations (regarding the problems of 1G MIS)

Innovations Problems	Decentralized MIS	MIS based at the level of chamber of agriculture	Use of mobile phones to widespread information	Sales of information	...
Connection between S & D of information	+	+	++	+++	
Exclusion			--	---	
Sustainability				+	
...					

Need for an in-dept analysis of the matrix “problems x innovations”

Impact of 2G MIS

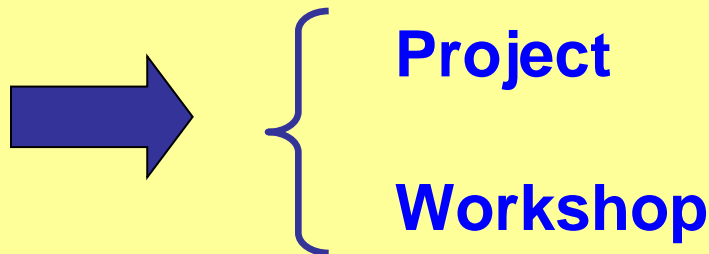
- Need to find a reliable method to assess MIS impact
- New methods can be implemented (e. g. using 2G MIS users databases)
- Need for a critical analysis of the methods

Need to compare and assess the methods

Synthesis:

Needs for research on 2G MIS

- 1. Need for inventory and characterization of African agricultural MIS (database).
- 2. Need for an in-dept analysis of the matrix “problems x innovations”
- 3. Need to compare and assess the methods that can be used to assess MIS impact



3. The research project on 2G MIS

Research Project Objectives

- Object : The role of 2G MIS in the context of instable agricultural and food markets
- Sub-questions:
 - How to adapt information to the stakeholders needs (taking into account the specificities of product and sectors, of the institutional framework)?
 - How to reduce negative effects that can be induced by information (i.e. benefit and/or negative effects of transparency, exclusion risk)?
 - How to ensure financial sustainability of these MIS without excluding too many stakeholders?

Research Project Activities

- Three main activities:
 - Characterize 2G MIS and elaborate a typology
 - Expert network
 - MIS repertory
 - Bibliography repertory
 - Analyze the innovations (in relation with the project questions and the typology)
 - Field study (5 MIS)
 - Capitalization
 - Assess the impact of MIS
 - Identify and analyze evaluation methodologies
 - Field tests (4 methodology on 3 MIS)
 - Capitalization

4. The workshop

Workshop Objectives

- **Feed the three activities of the research project**

- A. Overview and characterization of MIS
- B. Analysis of the strengths and limits of innovations
- C. Impact assessment of MIS

- **Strengthen the MIS experts network**

- Develop personal relations
- Enhance the coordination with other research program and projects related to MIS

- **Identify the next steps**

- For the main activities of the research project
- For the network

Workshop Organisation

- A workshop targeted on the expertise and the latest work of the network members. It is organized around the three main activities of the research project:
 - Session A : « Overview of agricultural MIS in sub-Saharan Africa »
 - Session B : « Innovations in MIS »
 - Session C : « MIS impact »